85 SANJAY MALHOTRA

86 MR. CHHABARIA

87 ALFONSO MEJIA

88 MANSOOR DAILAMI

89 DR. K.B. BANERJEE

90 J.R. MALHOTRA

91 JEAN PIERRE BANDELAIRE

92 S. RAMESH

93 H. SUNDARAJAN

94 C.L. SENGUPTA

95 S. DASGUPTA

96 R.K. WADHERA

97 B.J.S. SIAL

Formation of Coast Guards to Prevent Smuggling

1738. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Maharashtra in consultation with the Home Ministry declared formation of coast guards for preventing smuggling of arms/ armaments;

(b) whether this coast guard unit is to guard in the coast under the guidance of custom authority in the area;

(c) who has overall control on this units; and

(d) whether it is a fact that due to inadequate staff and non-cooperative attitude of custom authority, the patrolling of coast guard have been totally stopped?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) This is not correct.

Demand for effective Security Measures by the State of J&K

1739. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether under the current situation in Hazratbal Shrine, Jammu and Kashmir has been demanding more effective security measures;

(b) whether militants with foreign elements have been defying the country's laws to the maximum; and

(c) if so. the facts thereof and steps to be taken threon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) The current situation at the Hazrat Bal Shrine is generally peaceful. After the vacation of the Shrine by the militants on 16 November, the Army cordon was lifted. The J&K Police and security forces have been deployed in the area to ensure the security of the Shrine and prevent the recurrence of mischief and criminal activities in the complex.

(b) and (c) Militant violence has continued in the State, and there arc reports of infiltration into the State of foreign elements who are also indulging in acts of terrorism and violence.

The pressure on the militants has been stepped up; security and operational arrangements are being regularly reviewed and streamlined; and vigilance and patrolling on the border/LOC have been intensified to check infiltration. All these measures have had a salutory impact, and a large number of militants, including foreign nationals have been killed/annrhcndcd in the recent months.